

8.7.4 SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM (SART)

Revised March 2, 2018

The Long Beach Police Department works in conjunction with sexual assault nurse examiners, sexual assault crisis advocates, child abuse advocates, and the District Attorney's Office to provide a comprehensive approach to investigating sexual assaults. The on-call Sex Crimes Detective will be notified of incidents reported within the first 24 hours of the crime occurring to determine, based on the totality of the circumstances, if they will respond; however, a forensic exam may be conducted for up to 120 hours (5 days) to retrieve evidence. Therefore, even if the Sex Crimes Detective is not responding, or the victim reports the incident after 24 hours, a forensic nurse may still respond for up to 120 hours to conduct a forensic sexual assault examination if the victim wishes an exam.

8.7.4.1 SART CALL-OUT CRITERIA

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If any of the following criteria are met, officers shall notify a field supervisor and the on-call SART Detective:

- 1) A felonious sexual assault occurring within the past 24 hours;
- 2) A sexual assault of a serious or sensitive nature (i.e., victim has serious physical injury or appears to be the victim of a serial rapist);
- 3) The attempted abduction of a child, where the primary motive is likely sexual exploitation of the child. If a motive cannot be determined, the assumed motive will be sexual exploitation of the child, based on national case studies (source: National Center for Missing and Exploited Children);
 - a) Response by the SART Detective shall be at the discretion of the detective;
- 4) Sexual assault incidents involving the following:
 - a) Any Long Beach Police Department employee;
 - b) Any sworn law enforcement officer (regardless of agency);
 - c) Any City of Long Beach VIP or other VIP, as determined by the Watch Commander;
- 5) At the request of the Watch Commander.

Cases involving unlawful sexual intercourse (CPC § 261.5), also known as statutory rape, may not meet the criteria for a SART call-out; however, a forensic nurse may respond for a sexual assault exam if requested by the victim.

Any incident involving a domestic partner sexual assault requires a DART notification, see section [8.6.2.1 DART Call-out Criteria](#).

Any felonious sexual assault occurring between 24 and 120 hours (5 days), does not meet the criteria for a SART call-out; however, officers may contact the sexual assault nurse examiner for a forensic exam if requested by the victim, refer to section [8.6.5 Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) Sexual Assault Exam](#).

8.7.4.2 SART CALL-OUT – OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

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If the incident is a SART call-out, notify a field supervisor. Once, a field supervisor has been notified, make notification to the on-call SART Detective; if the SART Detective is responding, stand by with the victim until the SART Detective provides further instructions.

If a forensic exam is to be conducted, the officer shall notify the on-call sexual assault nurse examiner. Officers shall transport the victim to the SART treatment center.

- If a sexual assault victim is at another hospital and cannot be transported to the SART treatment center because of injuries, the SART Detective shall be advised and will consult with the sexual assault nurse examiner regarding the location for the SART exam.

If the victim is 14-years-old or older, notify the Rape Hotline and document in the LBPD incident report the name of the person notified and the time of the notification.

- If the victim is younger than 14-years-old, notify *For the Child* and document in the LBPD incident report the name of the person notified and the time of the notification.

8.7.4.3 SART CALL-OUT – FIELD SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

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If any of the criteria listed in [8.6.3.1 SART CALL-OUT CRITERIA](#) are met, field supervisors shall notify the Watch Commander and ensure notification is made to the on-call Sex Crimes detective.

8.7.4.4 SART CALL-OUT – WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

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The Watch Commander shall ensure the SART call-out is documented in the Watch Commander's Log